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## Note verbale dated 22 June 2016 from the Permanent Mission of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and has the honour to convey the updated national report of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the national plan of action on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) (see annex).

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**Annex to the note verbale dated 22 June 2016 from the Permanent Mission of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee**

[Original: Russian]

# National report of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)

## I. Introduction

On 28 April 2004, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1540 (2004) under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, in which it affirms that the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery constitutes a threat to international peace and security.

Resolution 1540 (2004) imposes obligations on all States to adopt legislation establishing adequate national control of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery (hereinafter referred to as "weapons of mass destruction") and preventing illicit trade therein, in accordance with relevant international conventions and treaties.

Uzbekistan reaffirms its resolve to actively combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in all its aspects and using all available forces and means and to support the international community's measures against it.

Uzbekistan's policy on disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is determined in accordance with its foreign policy, which is based on its commitment to strengthening international security, promoting cooperation among States and enhancing the role of international organizations in solving global problems and conflicts.

Over the years of independence, Uzbekistan has taken a number of steps that demonstrate its determination to strengthen the regime of the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Uzbekistan has signed the main international conventions and treaties in this area, or has acceded to them, and has adopted national legislation to implement the provisions contained therein, including:

- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (Washington/London/Moscow, 1972);
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (Paris, 1993);
- Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (Vienna, 1979) and the Amendment thereto (Vienna, 2005);
- Code of Conduct on Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources (International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), 2003);
- Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Washington/London/Moscow 1968);

- Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia (Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan, 2006);
- Agreement among the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States on Chemical Weapons (Tashkent, 1992);
- Agreement for cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy between the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM) and the Government of Uzbekistan (Brussels, 2003);
- Act No. 657-XII of the Republic of Uzbekistan of 3 July 1992 on State health inspection;
- Act No. 658-II of the Republic of Uzbekistan of 26 August 2004 on export controls;
- Act No. 71-II of the Republic of Uzbekistan of 25 May 2000 on the licensing of certain types of activity;
- Act No. 120-II of the Republic of Uzbekistan of 31 August 2000 on radiation safety;
- Act No. 362-II of the Republic of Uzbekistan of 5 April 2002 on waste;
- Criminal Code of Uzbekistan (enacted by Act No. 2012-XII of 22 September 1994), which provides stiff sentences for unlawful activity in the area of trade in radioactive, nuclear, chemical and biological substances (articles 246, 252, 253, 254 and 255-1);
- Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan decision No. 111 of 6 March 2004 approving the statute on the licensing of activity in the area of trade in sources of ionizing radiation;
- Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan decision No. 424 of 10 September 2004 on measures for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004);
- Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan decision No. 98 of 3 April 2009 approving the rules of procedure for a State system for the accounting and control of trade in sources of ionizing radiation;
- Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan decision No. 179 of 25 June 2009 on measures to ensure compliance with the obligations of Uzbekistan under international agreements pertaining to the peaceful use of nuclear energy;
- Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan decision No. 231 of 13 August 2009 approving the procedure for State accounting and control of trade in radioactive substances, radioactive waste and nuclear materials;
- Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan decision No. 358 of 20 December 2012 approving the statute on a single State system for forecasting, early detection and response to radiation emergencies.

## II. Contribution by Uzbekistan to strengthening international security and the global regime of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

As a full member of IAEA, Uzbekistan has been able to access advanced technology and international experience in the peaceful use of nuclear energy in science, health care, agriculture and other industries; it has also been able to safely handle nuclear materials. Participation in the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme (internships, training, expert assistance, equipment) has enabled it to improve radiation and nuclear safety in the country.

Uzbekistan supported the adoption of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). In 2004, 2005 and 2007, it submitted to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) its national reports and additional information on the measures taken at the national level to establish an export control system to monitor the transfer of goods and technology that may be used to make weapons of mass destruction and other types of weapons.

Given the comprehensive and all-embracing nature of resolution 1540 (2004), efforts are being made to enhance its implementation by studying international experience and applying the lessons learned to the work of competent State authorities.

## III. National measures

A comprehensive national legislative and regulatory system is now in place in Uzbekistan, setting out the key provisions of the legal regime for ensuring radiation, nuclear, chemical and biological safety.

The practical implementation of the legal requirements ensures a unified approach to the application of and compliance with the main principles of ensuring radiation, nuclear, chemical and biological safety throughout Uzbekistan, regardless of the nature of the manufacturing activities or scientific research and development work being performed or the department responsible for them.

The following are priority areas of the national system to control weapons of mass destruction:

### 1. Nuclear safety of research reactors

With the support of the Government of Uzbekistan, IAEA and competent United States and Russian authorities, a highly complex project was carried out in a State special purpose facility by specialized State institutes and competent State bodies, involving the transition to low-enriched fuel and the enhanced physical protection of a research reactor and the grounds of the Institute of Nuclear Physics of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan. Repair and renovation work was carried out on the secondary circuit of the research reactor to prevent the deterioration of the nuclear facility's systems, with the support of the Government of Uzbekistan, IAEA and a number of donor countries. This helped reduce the nuclear threat to the environment, surrounding area and population to less than one fifteenth of its former level.

With technical support from IAEA, an international technical meeting was held in Tashkent to learn from the experience gained by State specialists in replacing the WWR-CM research reactor protection system and ensuring the reactor's long-term safety. The meeting was attended by experts from eight IAEA member States in whose territory there are similar research reactors. IAEA has issued a series of recommendations and guidelines for member States based on the findings of this meeting.

**2. Prevention of the unlawful transfer and proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery**

In accordance with current legislation, measures are being taken to prevent, detect and halt the illicit transfer across the State border of Uzbekistan of arms, ammunition, explosives or radioactive, biological, chemical or other toxic substances, objects or materials that may be used for the purposes of committing a terrorist act.

Furthermore, the main border customs posts are equipped with mobile radiation detectors and portal monitors, which are connected to the integrated local area network of the State Customs Committee, in order to prevent the illicit transfer of radioactive and nuclear materials.

Health-control points are in operation at checkpoints on State borders with neighbouring States and at airports to prevent any deterioration in the epidemiological situation and the spread of quarantinable infections in the territory of Uzbekistan.

On the initiative of Uzbekistan, work is currently under way to establish in Tashkent a Central Asian regional office of the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence, with the support of the European Union.

**3. Radiation safety**

Companies that use radioactive substances and sources of ionizing radiation in manufacturing, mining, geological exploration, medical institutes, food and chemical processing and scientific research are monitored for radiation safety. Radiation safety regulations and basic health standards for ensuring radiation safety have been developed by competent authorities through joint and coordinated work as guidelines for optimizing protection from radiation exposure.

**4. Safety and security of radioactive sources and physical protection of hazardous radiation facilities**

Work is under way to inventory radioactive sources and ensure their physical protection, with the aim of preventing their theft and unlawful use, in accordance with the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources (IAEA, 2003).

A number of laws and regulations have been adopted to regulate the inventorying and control of trade in radioactive materials, sources of ionizing radiation and radioactive waste, which were highly praised by experts from other countries and international organizations (IAEA, EURATOM).

Joint work by ministries and government agencies has led to the creation of the first database covering all the sources of ionizing radiation used in the country. A catalogue has been compiled of the sources of ionizing radiation used in Uzbekistan.

Physical protection has been improved in all the facilities of ministries and Government agencies that use highly active radioactive substances (Institute of Nuclear Physics, Veterinary Institute, cancer detection centres). Bilateral programmes supported by international grants and donor countries have led to a significant improvement in the regulatory infrastructure and increased capacity in this sphere.

**5. National strategy to regain control of orphan sources**

A package of training materials on orphan sources is being prepared to address this issue. The materials will complement the draft safety manual entitled *Methodology for a National Strategy for Regaining Control over Orphan Sources*. This document is currently under development.

A plan for the detection and securing of orphan sources aims to provide assistance to ministries and Government agencies in building their capacities to detect and secure orphan radioactive sources and to compile verified inventories. An expert group has been set up to tackle this difficult task, comprising highly qualified specialists from ministries and Government agencies. In addition, an interim storage facility on the grounds of the Institute of Nuclear Physics has been designated to identify unknown radioactive elements, assess their activity level and the integrity of their containment shell and container, carry out certification and address the possibility of their recycling.

**6. Training and skills development of national staff**

Training is one of the key priorities of the Government's policy. A training centre for radiation safety specialists and a working group to coordinate the training of staff working in the field of radiation and nuclear safety have been operating since 2006 under the Tashkent Institute of Advanced Medical Education of the Ministry of Health to support ministries and government agencies in providing comprehensive, sustained and specially tailored training to their staff. Over the past five years, with the support of the Government of Uzbekistan and IAEA, the training centre has organized six international training courses, at the regional and national levels, on the various aspects of emergency preparedness and response. More than 70 local and 40 foreign emergency management and response specialists and the staff of competent authorities and civil protection units have received training through these courses.

**7. Chemical safety**

In accordance with the 1993 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction, a committee on the implementation of the Convention at the national level has been established under the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan.

Information on the legal and administrative measures taken to implement the Convention has been submitted to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical

Weapons (OPCW) and the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs, and a statement on the progress of its implementation is transmitted every year.

Two regional workshops and a concluding session have been held in Uzbekistan, in cooperation with OPCW, on combating the illicit proliferation and use or exploitation of chemical weapons and their components.

### 8. Biological safety

In compliance with Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), the arrangements for the biological safety and physical protection of Ministry of Health facilities in which pathogenic organisms are stored have been verified. These facilities fully meet the standards established for facilities engaged in the study and identification of quarantinable and especially dangerous infectious diseases. All laboratories have special permits to work with pathogenic organisms of the various hazard groups, which are issued by the safety commission of the Ministry of Health for each individual laboratory. Access to laboratories and authorization to work with pathogenic materials are strictly limited.

In accordance with the intergovernmental agreement between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the United States of America of 5 June 2001 and the Non-Proliferation of Biological Weapons Programme, American specialists from the Defense Threat Reduction Agency of the United States Department of Defense have worked on enhancing the level of physical protection and biological safety at various research institutes of the Ministry of Health of Uzbekistan.

## IV. Concluding comments

Uzbekistan is taking concerted action to prevent and suppress the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and strengthen international cooperation in this field and is ready to do its utmost to fulfil all the requirements of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). Although problems exist in all the priority areas, a streamlined and comprehensive approach to their solution will ensure a healthy future generation.

## Addendum

## Programme of measures to implement Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) for 2015 (National action plan)

| *No.* | *Activities* | *Time frame* |
|---|---|---|
| I. | Improvement of the legal and regulatory framework for radiation, nuclear, chemical and biological safety and export control | |
| 1. | Preparation of a draft Presidential decree regulating the import, export and transit of certain goods | Second quarter 2015 |
| 2. | Introduction of amendments to the existing legal and regulatory framework for export control | Second quarter 2015 |
| 3. | Preparation of a draft Cabinet of Ministers decision on measures to implement the 2005 International health regulations in Uzbekistan | Second quarter 2015 |
| 4. | Introduction of amendments to the existing legal and regulatory framework outlining requirements to conduct anti-epidemic health protection measures in the territory of Uzbekistan and health and quarantine control at checkpoints on the State border of Uzbekistan | Third quarter 2015 |
| 5. | Submission to the Cabinet of Ministers of a bill on the introduction of amendments and additions to the Act on State health inspection | Fourth quarter 2015 |
| II. | Organizational and practical activities to enhance cooperation among competent bodies in ensuring radiation, nuclear, chemical and biological safety | |
| 6. | Learning from, assimilating and implementing in Uzbekistan international experience in responding to and mitigating the effects of emergencies in the area of radiation, nuclear, chemical and biological safety | Ongoing |
| 7. | Research and monitoring of radiation, nuclear, chemical and biological safety | Ongoing |
| 8. | Joint civil defence drills for emergencies in facilities involved in trade in radioactive and nuclear materials | Throughout the year |
| 9. | Joint civil defence drills for emergencies in facilities involved in trade in chemical substances | Throughout the year |
| 10. | Joint civil defence drills for emergencies in facilities working with microorganisms in pathogenic hazard groups 1 and 2 | Throughout the year |
| 11. | Awareness-raising campaigns through the mass media | Throughout the year |

| *No.* | *Activities* | *Time frame* |
|---|---|---|
| III. | Training and skills development of national staff in the field of radiation, nuclear, chemical and biological safety | |
| 12. | Training courses, workshops and seminars aimed at developing the skills of radiation, nuclear, chemical and biological safety specialists. Learning from the practical experience gained in that area by the competent bodies of other States | Throughout the year |
| 13. | Implementation of a distance learning system for specialists from regional institutes in the area of radiation, nuclear, chemical and biological safety and improvement of the existing information and communications technology in that area | Fourth quarter 2015 |
| IV. | International cooperation in the area of radiation, nuclear, chemical and biological safety | |
| 14. | Organization and holding of training courses for specialists from ministries and government agencies, with the participation of experts from international organizations, including in the framework of international programmes | Throughout the year |
| 15. | Participation of specialists from ministries and government agencies in international conferences, symposiums, meetings, training courses, seminars and round tables held by international organizations | Ongoing |
| 16. | Drafting of proposals for international organizations and donor countries pertaining to the provision of assistance to upgrade divisions and offices of ministries and government agencies working in the area of radiation, nuclear, chemical and biological safety, equipping them with the latest control technology and personal protective equipment. | First quarter 2015 |